

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) Pulper device for waste paper material, characterized in that it comprises:

- a container (9) for collecting said waste, having an inlet opening (11) for said waste;
 - at least one pressurized water nozzle (13, 15) which produces a jet of water which
- 5 intercepts the waste which falls into said container,
- and a first pump (27) which removes the water and the waste from said container, said first pump being a chopper pump.

2. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 1, characterized in that it comprises a first series (11) of pressurized water nozzles and a second series (13) of pressurized water nozzles, the jets produced by the nozzles of the first series and the nozzle jets produced by the second series having trajectories which intersect in a zone where said waste falls.

3. (Original) Device according to claim 2, characterized in that said nozzles have trajectories with different inclinations.

4. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 2 or 3, characterized in that two inclined surfaces (21, 23) for guiding the jets produced by the nozzles are associated with said first series (11) and said second series (13) of nozzles.

5. (Original) Device according to claim 4, characterized in that said inclined surfaces are oriented approximately parallel to the trajectory of the jets produced by the respective nozzles.

6. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 4, characterized in that each of said surfaces extends from the respective series of nozzles as far as a respective terminal edge (21A, 23A), the terminal edges of said two surfaces delimiting a passage for conveying the water and the waste paper material.

7. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 4, characterized in that said surfaces are flat.

8. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 1, characterized in that said container has an elongated longitudinal extension, the inlet opening extending in the longitudinal direction of extension of said container.

9. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 2, characterized in that said container has an elongated upper opening, parallel to which said first and said second series of nozzles extend.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 1, characterized in that it comprises a recirculation duct (29A) between said first pump (27) and the container (9), by means of which a part of the flow sucked in by said first pump is recirculated inside said container.

12. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 11, characterized in that the outlet of said recirculation duct (29A) is situated in a position approximately opposite an intake opening (25) of said first pump.

13. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 8 11, characterized in that the outlet of said recirculation duct (29A) and the intake opening of said first pump are arranged approximately at the ends of the elongated longitudinal extension of said container.

14. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 12, characterized in that the bottom of said container is inclined downwardly and from the outlet of said recirculation duct toward the intake opening of said first pump.

15. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 1, characterized in that said container is connected to a suction duct (51) which sucks air from inside said container (9).

16. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 4 31, characterized in that said

suction duct (51) has suction openings (55) arranged underneath at least one of said two inclined surfaces.

17. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim ~~15~~ 31, characterized in that said suction duct is connected to a separator (53) for separating air from solid and/or liquid particles entrained in the air flow.

18. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 1, characterized in that it comprises a thickening station (35) to which at least partly the mixture of water and waste paper material sucked by said first pump is conveyed and inside which the solid content of the mixture is increased, eliminating therefrom a part of the water content.

19. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 18, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising:

a recirculation duct connected to said first pump and said container, said first pump removing a first portion of the waste material and water from said container, and recirculating another portion of the waste material and water back into said container through said recirculation duct;

a second ~~5~~ pump (31), which conveys said first portion of the waste material and water the flow sucked by said first pump, ~~less the recirculation flow~~, toward said thickening station (35), is arranged along the a delivery duct of said first pump (27).

20. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 18, characterized in that the mixture leaving said thickening station is conveyed to a another container for subsequent conveying to a headbox associated with the paper production line and the water separated from said mixture is recycled.

21 - 27 (Cancelled) .

28. (New) A device in accordance with claim 1, wherein:

said chopper pump both pulverizes the waste paper material in the water, and pumps the water and waste paper material simultaneously.

29. (New) A device in accordance with claim 28, further comprising:

a recirculation duct connected to said chopper pump and said container, said chopper pump removing a portion of the waste material and water from said container, and recirculating another portion of the waste material and water back into said container through said recirculation duct.

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30. (New) A device in accordance with claim 29, further comprising:

a first series of pressurized water nozzles and a second series of pressurized water nozzles, said first and second series of nozzle are arranged to produce jets having trajectories

which intersect in a zone where the waste falls and exerting a pulping action on the waste.

31. (New) A pulper device for waste paper material, characterized in that it comprises:

a container for collecting said waste, having an inlet opening for said waste;

at least one pressurized water nozzle which produces a jet of water which intercepts the waste which falls into said container,

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and a first pump which removes the water and the waste from said container;

a suction duct connected to said container and which sucks air from inside said container.

32. (New) A pulper device for waste paper material, the device comprising:

a container for collecting the waste paper material, having an inlet opening for said waste;

at least one pressurized water nozzle which produces a jet of water which intercepts the waste paper material which falls into said container,

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and a first pump which removes the water and the waste from said container;

a recirculation duct connected to said first pump and said container, said first pump removing a portion of the waste material and water from said container, and recirculating another portion of the waste material and water back into said container through said recirculation duct.

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33. (New) A device in accordance with claim 32, wherein:

said first pump is arranged at a first longitudinal end of said container;

said recirculation duct is connected to a second longitudinal end of said container, said
first and second longitudinal ends being arranged diametrically opposite on said container to
5 flow the waste to said first longitudinal end.

34. (New) A device in accordance with claim 33, wherein:

said first pump is a chopper pump.

35. (New) A device in accordance with claim 34, wherein:

said chopper pump both pulverizes the waste paper material in the water, and pumps
the water and waste paper material simultaneously.